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News Release

For Immediate Release

Scooter operators committing traffic violations

Increasing in popularity on Springfield's public roadways are "scooters," which are often operated by citizens committing traffic violations, sometimes unknowingly. Violations have included exceeding the posted speed limits, failing to signal turning movements, improper lane usage, driving without a license, and even driving while intoxicated.

A scooter is defined as a "motorized bicycle" by [Missouri Revised Statutes](#) (RSMo) when it is any two-wheeled or three-wheeled device having an automatic transmission and a motor with a cylinder capacity of not more than 50 cubic centimeters, which produces less than three gross brake horsepower, and cannot have a maximum speed of more than 30 miles per hour on flat ground. The Springfield Police Department has observed that a lot of the newer scooters easily exceed 30 mph. As per RSMo, once the scooter is [capable of exceeding 30 mph](#), it is considered a motorcycle and is subject to all the normal [motorcycle rules and regulations](#), which states the scooter must be registered as a motorcycle (displaying license plates) and the driver must have a motorcycle endorsement on their valid driver's license.

Another common misconception of those operating motorized bicycles is that the driver does not believe they are required to have a valid driver's license. Even if the mode of transportation is classified as a motorized bicycle, the operator is still required to have a valid driver's license when operating the scooter on a public roadway. Those that do not have a valid license are not legally allowed to operate a scooter on the public streets and are subject to being ticketed.

For more information about regulations for motorized bicycles and motorcycles, visit the [Missouri Department of Revenue's website](#).

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